RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

DISEASE REPORTING

In Washington

New requirements for the reporting of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) were instituted in December of 2000. In the first year of reporting, DOH received 148 reports.

Purpose of reporting and surveillance

- To assess the risk of rabies exposure in persons bitten or otherwise exposed to animal saliva, determine the need for PEP, and to provide counseling to those who don't require PEP.
- To facilitate the capture and confinement of potentially rabid animals (involved in a human exposure) with a defined observation period (dogs, cats, and ferrets); or facilitate histological examination of the brain of potentially rabid animals (involved in a human exposure) when those animals cannot be observed. This may involve coordination with other agencies, e.g., the Humane Society, animal control, and local law enforcement.

Reporting requirements

- Health care providers: notifiable to Local Health Jurisdiction within 3 work days
- Hospitals: notifiable to Local Health Jurisdiction within 3 work days
- Laboratories: no requirements for reporting
- Local health jurisdictions: notifiable to DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology within 7 days of case investigation completion or summary information required within 21 days

CASE DEFINITION FOR SURVEILLANCE

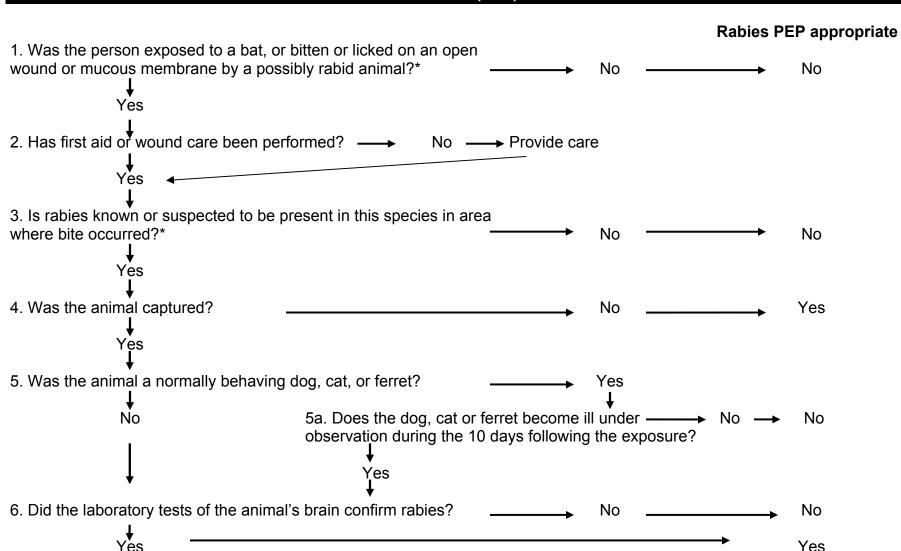
Clinical criteria for diagnosis

Receipt of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and/or rabies vaccine (Human Diploid Cell vaccine [HCDV]; Rabies Vaccine Adsorbed, IM; or Purified Chick Embryo Cell Culture Vaccine [PCEC]), following presumed exposure to a rabid or potentially rabid animal.

Case definition

Meets the clinical case definition.

ALGORITHM FOR RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) IN WASHINGTON STATE



^{*} Bats are the only significant rabies reservoir in the Pacific Northwest. Although raccoon rabies is common in other parts of the United States, especially the Mid-Atlantic states, no rabid raccoons have ever been identified in Washington, the surrounding states or provinces. Since 1970, among more than 8,000 animals tested at the State Public Health Laboratory, the only animals (other than bats) identified as having rabies were a dog, a cat, a llama, a horse, and two skunks. Rabies is extremely rare in rodents.